SIR, We read with interest the article by Akar et al. Mediterranean fever: results of a cluster analysis: reply

Sir, We agree with Kelesoglu et al. [1] that several FMF patients may report short-lasting episodes of chest pain for at least some of their attacks, leading to diagnostic confusion. However, we can confidently claim that our physicians, who encounter hundreds of FMF patients, do have a reasonable competency in the differentiation of pleuritic vs non-pleuritic chest pain in such cases. The authors stated that the frequency of pleuritis is higher in our article [2] than previous studies reporting a frequency around 8–19% [2, 3]. Considering that only a proportion of patients with chest pain are found out to have pleuritis on further investigation, we suggest that the authors give more detail about this high rate of pleuritic. We also suggest further questioning of these patients about the possible aetiologies of their chest pain to avoid overdiagnosis of FMF in countries with a high prevalence of FMF.

Funding: No specific funding was received from any bodies in the public, commercial or not-for-profit sectors to carry out the work described in this manuscript.

Disclosure statement: The authors have declared no conflicts of interest.

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Comment on: Different disease subtypes with distinct clinical expression in familial Mediterranean fever: results of a cluster analysis: reply

SIR, We agree with Kelesoglu et al. [1] that several FMF patients may report short-lasting episodes of chest pain for at least some of their attacks, leading to diagnostic confusion. However, we can confidently claim that our physicians, who encounter hundreds of FMF patients, do have a reasonable competency in the differentiation of pleuritic vs non-pleuritic chest pain in such cases. The authors stated that the frequency of pleuritis is higher in our article [2] than previous studies reporting a frequency around 8–19%; however, in two large multicentre studies from Turkey, pleurisy was reported in 31 and 48% of the cases, respectively [3, 4]. In order to analyse a more homogenous patient population, in the present study [2] we obtained patients’ data from only two centres, which are both located in western Turkey. In fact, variations in temporal periods and geographical regions may result phenotypic differences in cohorts of FMF patients. Schwabe and Peters [5] had found pleuritis in 87%...